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ON THE HEALTH-PRESERVING PROPERTIES OF THE JUSSIEUA  
GRANDIFLORA.

[The following interesting article, by Samuel A. Cartwright, M.D., of Natchez, is somewhat abridged from the Western Medical Journal. The statistics of health and longevity among the inhabitants of a southern portion of our country, will be read with no little surprise at the North, whatever may be thought of the theory by which they are explained.]

Nearly the whole surface of many of the bayous and a considerable surface of many of the lakes, in all that part of Louisiana below 30 degrees of latitude, are covered, in a greater or less degree, with the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, the plant which possesses hygienic or health-preserving properties. This plant is exclusively aquatic, is large and flowering, grows three or four feet above the surface of the water, and gives the water on which it grows the fallacious appearance of a natural meadow. The root is several feet in length, is jointed, about half an inch in diameter; lies horizontally on the water, but an inch or two below its surface. Each joint sends up the culm or stem of the plant, and around each joint of the root, at the foot of the stem, are a great number of radicles or hair-like roots, some of which float on the surface of the water, and others dip down towards the bottom or fasten themselves to old logs. These radicles or little roots often have adhering to them an inky kind of paste or substance, which they collect from the water, and no doubt constitutes the nourishment or proper aliment of the plant to which they belong. The roots, radicles and radicle leaves of the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, form such a dense covering to the water, as to constitute a bridge sufficiently strong to enable snakes and grasshoppers to cross over the stagnant pools in which it grows. I travelled forty miles in a canoe through bayous and lakes, which were almost entirely covered by the *Jussieua Grandiflora* and intermixed with a number of other aquatic plants. I was often unable to see any water at all, except in the track made by the canoe. Although very frail, and easily pushed aside or broken, this floating plant afforded considerable resistance to the progress of the canoe. On the wide lakes and bays, the winds often detach large masses of this and other aquatic plants, which being driven about by the waves, and one detachment forced upon another, constitute what are termed *floating Islands*—which are often strong enough to bear the weight of a man in a recumbent posture. The *Jussieua Grandiflora*, together with other aquatic plants, are not only found on the lakes, bays

and bayous, but they constitute the sub-stratum of that singular and non-descript species of savannah called the *prairie tremblant*. These prairies are constituted in the first instance of a vast assemblage of aquatic plants. On this vegetable stratum, intermixed with the *débris* of other vegetable substances, a number of grasses and terrestrial plants like parasites fasten themselves and grow. The whole is formed into a complete vegetable mattress, strong enough to support a man in a crawling position, but not sufficiently firm to enable him to walk upright. It is also too firm to admit of the passage of a boat or canoe. When the foot is placed upon it, the whole mass trembles; hence the French name *prairie tremblant*, and the English name *shaking prairie*. It is said that if a hole is cut in it, fish may be caught with a hook and line.

The facts on which I rest the hygienic or health-preserving properties of the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, are:—

1st. That it purifies all stagnant water in which it grows.

2d. The remarkable exemption of the inhabitants of that section of Louisiana from malarious or miasmatic diseases.

1. The water on which the *Jussieua Grandiflora* grows differs essentially from other water, similarly circumstanced, where this plant does not grow. Although I visited the country in which the plant is indigenous, during a very dry and hot season, in the month of June, I found the stagnant water of the lakes and bayous, inhabited by this plant, as pure to the sight, taste and smell as if it had just fallen from the clouds. Near the Gulf of Mexico, however, the water of the bayous was impregnated with salt. The water also of Bayou Black, although fresh, had a darkish appearance—owing to a chemical affinity between some ferruginous matter in the soil, and the oak trees and leaves which had fallen into the water. The water of Bayou Black, although of a dark color, was free from any disagreeable taste or smell. It contained no green scum, and was considered to be equally good and palatable as cistern water; except near the Gulf, where the water is impregnated with salt; the inhabitants, who reside on the margins of the stagnant lakes and bayous of that part of Louisiana, drink no other kind of water.

I could discover no other cause for the remarkable purity of the stagnant water in the lagoons, swamps, lakes and bayous of lower Louisiana, than the aquatic plant under consideration.

North of the region where the *Jussieua Grandiflora* flourishes, there is the same kind of alluvial soil, formed by depositions of the identical rivers which form the soil of Lower Louisiana, yet stagnant water in hot weather becomes exceedingly impure, beyond the limits in which the plant under consideration is found. The soil, therefore, cannot occasion the purity of the water of Lower Louisiana, because the same kind of soil, a little further north, has not the same effect. Nor can the purity of the water be owing to the salt or sea water; because the water is equally pure, wherever the aquatic plant grows, whether in salt water or fresh.

I think it may be fairly inferred, therefore, that the aquatic plant known by botanists under the name of *Jussieua Grandiflora*, consumes or

feeds upon those substances which, in other situations, corrupt and vitiate stagnant waters in a warm climate.

2. The remarkable health and longevity of the inhabitants, and their exemption from malarious and miasmatic diseases. The fact that the region of country in which the aquatic plant abounds, is exceedingly healthy, can be established beyond cavil or dispute. It nevertheless contains more stagnant water and swamps, than any other inhabited district of the same extent in the United States.

The country immediately north of the line bounding the growth of the floating plant, which is about the 30th degree of north latitude, like that south of 30, is alluvial, contains lakes, swamps and stagnant waters—is covered with nearly the same vegetable productions; but its atmosphere is evidently insalubrious, its stagnant waters impure, its inhabitants sickly, and human life of short duration; while the country of the aquatic plant, immediately south of it, contains a wholesome atmosphere, pure water, healthy and long-lived inhabitants. It may be supposed that this country is too new and too thinly inhabited to form any correct estimation of the health and longevity of its inhabitants. Such a supposition is erroneous. Although a considerable part of the region abounding in the aquatic plant is uncultivated and almost uninhabited, yet a very considerable portion of this territory has been settled nearly a century. A large colony from Nova Scotia emigrated to it before the revolutionary war. Some of the settlements south of New Orleans contain more free white inhabitants to the square mile than the oldest and most populous settlements in Pennsylvania.

It may be said that the inhabitants are the descendants of French and Spanish, and consequently no just comparison can be drawn between them and the descendants of the English. It is true that a large portion of the inhabitants are of French extraction. A large settlement of them on the Lafourche, within this region, were born north of the United States, in the cold latitude of Canada. Colonel Sparks, an intelligent sugar planter, who resides on the Bayou Lafourche, in the midst of the colony which emigrated from Nova Scotia more than half a century ago, informed me, in 1831, that a great number of the emigrants were still living. He took me to a number of their houses, and his statements were confirmed by the inhabitants themselves. I saw more than a sufficient number of gray heads and healthy looking children to remove all skepticism in reference to the health and longevity of the inhabitants. Besides the French population, this particular section of country has spread through it a number of Italians, Spanish, Dutch, German, Irish, English and Scotch. It also contains emigrants from almost every State in the Union. The negro population is also considerable, and is remarkably healthy and long-lived. It contains more negroes over 100 years of age, than five New England States put together, including the total population, white and black. The population of this land of aquatic plants owes its origin to so many different nations, that it is not uncommon for the Creoles or natives of the country, even when uneducated, to speak with great ease three or four different languages. If it were true, which it is not, that the French people are exempt from mis-

matic diseases, such as bilious, remittent and intermittent fevers, it would prove nothing; because the Germans, Spanish, Italians, Scotch, Irish and English, together with the negroes and emigrants from the States north of Louisiana, are all in this land of aquatic plants singularly exempt from such diseases. But neither the French nor any other race of people are thus exempted when they cross the line which terminates the growth of the floating plant. It is therefore a fair inference that this plant, by consuming the impurities of the stagnant waters, prevents the generation of miasmata, and thus acts as a prophylactic against bilious fevers and other miasmatic diseases.

I am aware that the inhabitants of the country themselves attribute their peculiar healthfulness to the influence of sea breezes. Out of the region of the floating plant, sea-breezes, however refreshing and beneficial to some constitutions, have not been found to exert any prophylactic power in preventing miasmatic diseases. It is not probable that sea-breezes would do more good for the sea-coast of Louisiana than for the sea-coast of Georgia, Carolina, Virginia and Maryland.

In the summer of 1831, I travelled extensively through Lower Louisiana, and am fully convinced from what I saw and heard that the particular district of country in which the floating plant abounds is pre-eminently healthy, while those sections of the State, similarly situated, but where the aquatic plant was not found, are grievously afflicted with malarious diseases.

I visited, among others, the plantation of M. Rochelle, on a small bayou, near Berwick's bay. The dwelling houses stood on the high ground, about a quarter of a mile from the bayou. The space between the bayou and the houses was occupied by a swamp through which a canal had been cut to afford access to the high ground or bluff, on which the dwellings stood. M. Rochelle, a few years previously, had the trees, covering the swamp, in front of the houses, cut down, in order to get a better view of the bayou, and obtain a freer circulation of air. As I passed up the canal or ditch, through the swamp, I perceived, on each side, the decaying timber lying in the water, which was entirely stagnant. In many places the water was not sufficient to cover the ground. On ascending the bluff and looking around, I ascertained, that besides a swamp of a quarter of a mile in width and three miles in length in front of the plantation, there was also an immense swamp in the rear, running back to a *prairie tremblant*; and on the lower side of the plantation was another bayou of stagnant water, and on the upper side a thick forest and cane brake. I thought, at the time, that if the country contained a sickly spot, this was the one.

The *Jussieua Grandiflora*, however, grew in profusion in all the waters around, whether these waters were in the bayous, or in the swamps; and whether they had communication with the bayous or were isolated stagnant pools, they were found to be pure and transparent—free from any offensive taste or smell.

M. Rochelle had fifty-three negroes living on this plantation, and his white family consisted of about a dozen persons. He informed me that himself and family, white and black, except the younger children,

were natives of Rockingham county, Virginia—that he had resided on his plantation with this large family, nine years, during which time no deaths had occurred, either among the whites or blacks, young or old—that there had not been more than three or four cases of sickness during any year—that these cases were slight and required little or no medical treatment. His neighbors confirmed this statement, and gave nearly as good an account of themselves. The negroes with whom I met, all looked healthy, happy and contented.

The Parishes on and below the 30th degree of north latitude are the following: Ascension, Parish of Orleans (not the city of New Orleans), St. John the Baptist, St. James, St. Martins on the line of 30 degrees; and the following below 30 degrees and south of New Orleans, viz., St. Mary, La Fayette, St. Charles, St. Bernard, Jefferson, Plaquemine, Assumption, Lafourche and Terrebonne. These parishes in 1830, not including any part of the city and suburbs of New Orleans, contained a total population of 83,943—37,778 white persons, and 46,165 negroes. They contained 38 persons over 100 years of age, whereas the whole of the New England States, with a population of 1,954,704, including upwards of 20,000 negroes, only contained 35 persons over 100 years of age. France, with 36 millions of inhabitants, only contained 537 persons over 100 years of age. If France were as favorable to longevity, as the land of the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, it ought to contain upwards of 16,000 individuals over 100 years of age.

By instituting a comparison on the data afforded by the census of 1830, it will be found that, in all that part of Louisiana where the *Jussieua Grandiflora* grows, for every 100 white males and females between 20 and 30 years of age, there are upwards of 100 children under 5 years of age; whereas, in that part beyond the region of the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, the number of children to every 100 white males and females, between 20 and 30 years of age, is only *eighty-six*, being more than 14 per cent. less than in that part of Louisiana inhabited by the floating plant.

Again, for every 100 males and females in those parishes of Louisiana inhabited by the floating plant, there are 79 children between 9 and 10 years of age; but beyond the region of the floating plant, the number is only 57.

The proportional number in Upper Louisiana of those between 10 and 15, and 15 and 20, is from 8 to 10 per cent. less than in that part of Louisiana inhabited by the *Jussieua Grandiflora*.

Taking the number of persons between 20 and 30 years of age in both districts as the standard of comparison, the number of citizens between 30 and 40 years of age is 8 per cent greater in the district of the floating plant, than in the district north of the region inhabited by it.

The number of white persons between 40 and 50, between 50 and 60, and between 60 and 70, is from 3 to 4 per cent. greater in that part of Louisiana inhabited by the *Jussieua*, than in the district lying north of it. The surest proof of the health of any country is the great number of children and old persons which it contains. Lower Louisiana contains from 8 to 14 per cent. more children in proportion to its population than Upper Louisiana, and from 3 to 14 per cent. more old persons.

Again, for every 1000 white inhabitants between 15 and 50 years of age, in all that part of Louisiana in which the floating plant is found, there are 132 individuals between 50 and 100 years of age—whereas, in all that part of Louisiana north of the region of the aquatic plant, the number of persons between 50 and 100 years of age, is only 118 to the 1000 adults.

In the famous city of Boston, the number of persons between 50 and 100 years of age is only 120 to the 1000—12 per cent. less than in the swamps and bayous of the most southern portion of Louisiana.

The city of New York contains only 110 to the 1000. But it is proper to observe that, according to the facts disclosed by the science of Political Arithmetic, all high and dry country situations, whether in the north or south, remote from swamps, marshes and stagnant waters, are more favorable to human life between 50 and 90 years of age than low and damp situations; but after 90 years of age, the low and damp situations are the most friendly to human existence. Although the number of persons between 50 and 90 in Louisiana is less in proportion to the population than the number of persons between 50 and 90 in the northern States or in France, yet the number beyond 90 years of age in Louisiana is much greater than in any of the northern States or in France. Thus, according to the census of 1830, the city of New Orleans, with less than 70,000 inhabitants, contained more persons over 100 years of age than New York and Philadelphia both together.

It is also a mistaken idea to suppose that dry and elevated situations in the south, remote from stagnant water, are less healthy, or less favorable to longevity, than similar situations in the north. According to the facts afforded by Political Arithmetic, the lives of the people of a number of counties in Mississippi ought to be insured at a cheaper rate than the lives of the people of Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania or New York. In Kentucky, for every 1000 inhabitants between 15 and 50 years of age, there are 168 individuals between 50 and 100. In Ohio, 148. In Pennsylvania, 171. In New York State, 167. In Lowndes county, Mississippi, among the white male inhabitants, for every 1000 persons between 15 and 50, there are 191 between 50 and 100; in Monroe county, Miss., 155; in Covington, 169; in Lawrence, 176; in Pike, 168; in Perry, 171; in Copiah, 165; in Amitie, 175; in Marion, 200; in Green, 225; in Jackson county, 232; and in Hancock, 241. The three last named counties contain more old people to the 1000 than the State of Maine, which contains 221. Hancock county exceeds Massachusetts by 3 in the 1000.

Although the probabilities of human life between 50 and 90 years of age are considerably less in the low swampy district of Louisiana, inhabited by the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, than in the dry and elevated counties of Mississippi, and less than in the high, dry and mountainous regions of Kentucky, Pennsylvania and Vermont, yet it is 14 in the 1000 more favorable to longevity than similar low and marshy districts north of the region of the aquatic plant. It is even 18 in the 1000 more favorable to longevity than the low swampy State of Illinois.

But the hygienic properties of the *Jussieua Grandiflora* are less evi-



dent in promoting longevity, than in exempting man from that fatal tribe of malarious or miasmatic diseases which cut off so many of the southern people in the prime of life. The number of persons who die in the northern States, in the prime of life, by consumption, typhous fever and inflammatory complaints, is about equal, or even exceeds, the number who die in the South of malarious diseases. But the region of country in which the *Jussiaea Grandiflora* flourishes, is from its mild climate comparatively exempt from consumption, typhous and inflammatory affections; and by reason of the anti-malarious properties of the plant, it is singularly exempted from all that tribe of diseases which are produced by marsh miasmata or by the unwholesome air of swamps, called malaria. The plant, it would seem, converts into its own nutriment those very impurities of stagnant water, which in other situations load the atmosphere, at certain seasons of the year, with noxious effluvia.

I have already shown that the number of persons between 30 and 40 years of age, in that part of Louisiana where the aquatic plant grows, is 8 per cent. greater than the proportionate number of persons between 30 and 40 in that section of Louisiana which lies north of the district inhabited by the plant—although the northern district includes a large portion of high and healthy piny woods.

Kentucky, in 1830, contained 87,852 white persons between 20 and 30 years of age, and only 49,750 between 30 and 40, and 31,442 between 40 and 50. The proportions, therefore, are as follows: For every 100 individuals in Kentucky, between 20 and 30 years of age, there are only 56 between 30 and 40. In the district of Louisiana inhabited by the aquatic plant, the proportional number is 64; 8 per cent. more persons die, therefore, in Kentucky, in the prime of life, than in the swamps of Lower Louisiana; but between 40 and 50, Kentucky has the advantage of Louisiana 1 per cent. The probabilities, therefore, of human life between 30 and 50 years of age, are 7 per cent. better in the swamps of Lower Louisiana, than in the healthy State of Kentucky.

The State of Pennsylvania, in 1830, contained 237,257 white persons between 20 and 30 years of age. If Pennsylvania were as favorable to human life, between 30 and 40 years of age, as that part of Louisiana in which the anti-malarious plant is indigenous, it ought to have contained 153,242 persons between 30 and 40. But the census shows that it contained only 144,776. Therefore 8466 persons, under 40, would have lived over 40, if they had resided in Lower Louisiana, instead of the mountains of Pennsylvania. But after 40, Pennsylvania has the advantage; but it is so small, as in 20 years, including the period from 30 to 50, that the probabilities of human life are only one 237th part greater in Pennsylvania than in Louisiana. But after 50, the probabilities of the duration of human life are considerably more in Pennsylvania until 90, when it again turns decidedly in favor of Louisiana.

Ohio, in 1830, contained 156,864 inhabitants between 20 and 30, and only 93,240 between 30 and 40; whereas, if Ohio were as favorable to human life, in its prime, as Lower Louisiana, it should have contained 101,424; making a difference in favor of the region of country

inhabited by the *Jussieu Grandiflora*, of 8184 persons. Even in 20 years, from 30 to 50, the probability of human life would, in the same population, be 3379 better in Louisiana, than in Ohio. But after 50, the probabilities would run in favor of Ohio until 90, when it would turn in favor of Louisiana.

In regard to the health of children in Lower Louisiana, the following facts derived from the results afforded by Political Arithmetic, should be conclusive: For every 1000 white females between 15 and 50 in Lower Louisiana, there are 2357 children under 15 years of age. If the country was not favorable to infantile existence, the number would not be so great by one half.

In Pennsylvania, the number of children under 15 years, to every 1000 females between 15 and 50, is only 2961; in Kentucky, 2370; in Ohio, 2275; in E. Tennessee, 1354; in the northern district of New York, 1967; in Virginia, 1972; in Mississippi, 2540. But in the paludal, or swampy districts of Mississippi, the number of children is about 300 to the 1000 less than in the district of Louisiana inhabited by the *Jussieu Grandiflora*.

In the United States, taken as a whole, the number of persons between 20 and 30 exceeds, in a small degree, the number of children under 5 years of age (only 16 in nearly 2,000,000). In Lower Louisiana, the children under 5 years exceed the adults between 20 and 30, 48; in Upper Louisiana, the adults between 20 and 30, exceed the children under 5 years, no less than 1208, giving Lower Louisiana about 8 children, where Louisiana has 7. In the United States, the adults between 30 and 50 years of age, are nearly equal to the adults between 20 and 30. The same thing occurs in that portion of Louisiana where the aquatic plant is found. There the adults between 30 and 50 are only 49 less than the adults between 20 and 30. Whereas, in Upper Louisiana, the adults between 30 and 50 fall short of the adults between 20 and 30, no less than 1097. Thus it appears, from a variety of facts, that a low, alluvial region, subject to annual inundation, and abounding in stagnant pools, lakes, lagoons and impassable swamps, in the most southern portion of the United States, is rendered not only habitable, but healthy, by an aquatic plant, that consumes or feeds upon the impurities of the water in which it grows, and thereby prevents the generation of miasmata, or those noxious vapors so unfriendly to human existence. It would seem, therefore, that the experiment of rendering other low and inundated districts of country healthy, by disseminating the *Jussieu Grandiflora* upon their stagnant waters, would be well worthy a trial. It would certainly be a great achievement of experimental philosophy, if she could extend the empire of her power into those low, swampy, and insalubrious districts of the South, and convert them into healthy abodes; even to make mill-ponds healthy would be no small triumph.

True philosophy is not, as is too often supposed, an inactive, inanimate, inefficient thing, incapable of doing good, or of accomplishing useful purposes; but it is an animated, restless, self-moving power, perpetually in action, constantly striving to make inroads upon the mys-



teries of nature, in order to drag something to light which may subserve the purposes of utility to man. That proud Isle, on whose possessions the sun never goes down, and whose name is a terror to every land but our own, was formerly nothing but an unhealthy, insignificant spot of earth, noted for nothing but the crab-apple, and almost inaccessible by reason of stormy seas. Philosophy, however, by uniting itself, as an active and directive power, with the various artists, agriculturists and manufacturers, has made England what it now is. But there, as in all other countries, except our own, the happiness and comfort of the many have been sacrificed to the pride and luxury of the few. This, however, is not the fault of philosophy, but the fault of the people in not applying or calling in the aid of experimental or Baconian philosophy to direct the affairs of State.

Our happy form of government rests on the firm basis of the Baconian or experimental philosophy. Our individual distinctions in society are all such as nature makes. The broad, artificial distinctions which divide the people of Europe, are unknown amongst us. Our government is founded upon *natural*, not *artificial* distinctions in society. Our chief executive officer can never, in the nature of our philosophy, be a child in its cradle or a girl in her teens. The same experimental philosophy, which we have found to succeed so admirably in our government, will also succeed equally well in our fields; and cause two blades of grass to grow where only one grew before. It is not too much to hope from it, that it may yet be made to convert sickly districts into healthy ones. There are many ways of accomplishing this object, in a greater or less degree, by embankments, draining, and a proper system of cultivation. I only propose the dissemination of the *Jussieua Grandiflora*, as a means of preserving health in those districts not susceptible of being drained or cultivated. Mississippi already owes half her wealth and influence to the successful application of the experimental philosophy to a single plant. It has been but a few years ago, when the cultivators of the cotton plant considered one hundred pounds a good day's work, for any one laborer, and moreover thought themselves fortunate, if half the bowls or pods on the plant did not annually perish with the disease called the rot.

At length the experimental philosophy fortunately came to the aid of the planter. It procured some seed from another variety, or, as I believe, a different species of the cotton plant, as found in the table lands of Mexico. The pods of the Mexican species were not affected by the rot, as the capsules were thicker, and less tender than the species at that time cultivated in Mississippi. But the attachment to the dissepiment and pillar of the capsule was so weak, that as soon as the capsules expanded, the cotton wool dropped out of the pods and fell to the ground. The experiment having, in a measure, failed, a second was instituted, by planting the seed of both species together in the same drill. A new species of the cotton plant was thereby produced, which did not rot, did not drop out of the bowls or pods, yet the bowls expanded freely, making it more than twice as easy to pick or gather, as the kind formerly cultivated. But in a very few years it was found that the new made

species of cotton, called Mexican, was fast degenerating into the old black seed kind. A third experiment was instituted, which consisted in separating the white or Mexican seed from the black seed, and planting the white. This was found to reinstate the new species, which possessed the advantages of both the parent species without their disadvantages.

Thus, in a few years, the experimental or Baconian philosophy has enabled the planter to make twice the quantity of cotton with the same labor, and Mississippi is indebted to it for half her wealth and power.

Our government, as I said, is founded upon the same philosophy—our agriculture is daily improving under its influence—by its aid our manufacturing establishments are already beginning to rival those of Europe—it has increased the velocity, beauty and strength of our shipping beyond all other nations in the world. It has diffused science into mechanism, shortened the road to mechanical knowledge, and elevated the American mechanic to the high station of the intelligent, the good and the useful. It has discovered better systems of education, improved those that formerly existed, and established new ones. Sunday Schools, Bible and Tract Societies and Missionary establishments are nothing more than so many philosophical experiments, having for their object the diffusion of Christianity—or, in other words, experimental philosophy trying to open the adamantine doors of ignorance and superstition to let in light. The ecclesiastical page of future times will tell the result. If this experimental philosophy, which has already done so much for mankind, and which is daily doing more, be invoked, it will not be expecting too much from it to hope, that it will ultimately point out the means by which unhealthy districts of country may be rendered salubrious. Whether the dissemination of the *Jussieua Grandiflora* be one of them, time and experience can alone determine.

#### CASTRATION FOR VARICOCELE.

BY M. D. THOMPSON, M.R.C.S.L.

On the 14th of February last, Mr. —, aged 24, applied to me relative to a varicocele of the left side. He was of spare habit, and high stature. He stated that he had been afflicted with the disease nearly five years, during which period it had invariably been aggravated by exercise; that it had been, excepting when he was in the horizontal position, attended with considerable pain; that the pain, in the morning when he rose, principally commenced and continued increasing in violence until he lay down, and that the pain, in spite of the various remedies which, at different, and for considerable periods, had been employed, had continued irritating, and consequently exhausting his system. Hence he was induced to try no other remedy, save having the testicle removed, which he intended to be done peremptorily.

On examination, the disease presented nothing but the ordinary characteristics of varicocele, being of a small size.

Believing that the disease might arise from too great a determination of blood to the part, owing to a morbid irritability or sensibility of the

nerves; or that it might arise from disease of, or compression upon, the veins; and, if the disease arose from the first cause, taking up the spermatic artery might cut off the determination, erase the morbid irritability or sensibility of the part, as such is governed in a greater or less degree by the vascularity, and probably preserve the integrity of the testicle, inasmuch as it might otherwise be supplied with blood; I proposed to perform the operation of taking up the spermatic artery. To this the patient objected. He asserted, "that he had absolutely decided to have, for the cure of his complaint, the operation of castration and no other executed." After this declaration, I promised to perform the operation on the next day but one following; on which day, previously to performing the operation, when the patient was seated upon the operating table, I, and Mr. Barker, a surgeon residing in the neighborhood, who was present, endeavored to persuade the patient to have the spermatic artery taken up, instead of being castrated; but our efforts were unavailing.

Then the operation of castration was performed. On examination, the testicle was found to be healthy, and of the ordinary size; the vaginal sac was found to contain a quantity of sero-sanguineous fluid; the vessels of the cord were enlarged: the veins were not only enlarged, but their coats considerably thickened, insomuch so that when cut across they did not collapse, but retained their circular form.

Subsequently to the operation the patient had not an unfavorable symptom; the treatment of the case was of the ordinary description. The healing of the wound occupied about a month, at the expiration of which time the patient expressed his gratefulness for his improved condition.—*London Lancet*.

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BOSTON, AUGUST 5, 1840.

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### DR. WARREN'S BATHING APPARATUS.

A FEW weeks since, a communication was published in the Journal, written by J. Wright Warren, M.D., the inventor of an ingenious and beautiful apparatus, in which many of the advantages resulting from frequent ablutions, in regard to health, were enumerated. We have taken some pains not only to examine the article as a piece of domestic furniture, but have looked into the principle involved in its construction. It is entirely unlike any of the ordinary conveniences for house-bathing—and would be regarded, we apprehend, by all physicians, without a dissenting voice, as an improvement that should be heartily encouraged. In the first place, instead of a repulsive, naked, coffin-like, metallic tub, with which we are all familiar, the receiver is concealed under the panels of no inferior cabinet work. According to the taste or fancy of the purchaser, the casing is plain, of rich wood, ornamented with pillars, drapery, &c., in most excellent taste; or all the embellishments may be dispensed with,

and nothing remain but the essential apparatus, unadorned. Specimens of both have doubtless been seen by many of our readers, through the attentions of the proprietor, when they have been in the city.

Notwithstanding a free distribution of circulars, comprising explanations and directions, the question seems to occur often—what is there in this contrivance which makes it any or at all superior to other bathing tubs? We answer—Dr. Warren's bathing tubs allow of having the water heated in them, when placed in any apartment of the house—even by the side of a sick bed. Here their portability is invaluable, since no disturbance takes place, as in the common kind, by carrying both hot and cold water up a flight of stairs. The temperature can be determined by the patient, without effort or fatigue, since he has command of the furnace—a miniature one, but precisely what is wanted, and no more. Thus, in this simplest form, we have an excellent bathing establishment that may be wheeled on casters from one room to another—and it never seems to be in the way any where, because it would be thought, ordinarily, to be an article of well-finished furniture. Superadded to this is a machine for administering a shower bath—and even the medicated vapor bath. According to the price, they are embellished, and supplied with various elastic tubes, valves, &c., besides suction and forcing pumps. By the exercise of a very little mechanical ingenuity, and at no great expense, a small lead pipe may be carried between the floors to a cistern, in any house, to supply the water—by the side of which a waste pipe might also conduct it off again, when once used, to the sink or drain. The pumps are fixed into the walls of the tub, where they are perfectly controlled by the person in the bath, who can at his pleasure let in cold water, raise the heat, or suffer the whole to escape.

To a considerable extent, this invention seems to be destined to take the place of that appendage of all good modern houses—the bath-room; and when a bathing tub, of some character or description, becomes a necessary household appendage, and regarded as such as much as a mattress, its utility will be appreciated by the community. Aside from the consideration of its value in the sick chamber, or in the wards of a hospital, in the private dwelling it must certainly be valued. Whilst we would urge our professional acquaintances to examine it as we have, we cannot but believe that they will also agree with us in saying that every physician of taste and consideration, would be glad to own one.

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*A System of Practical Medicine.*—A beautiful volume of 561 pages, comprising a series of original dissertations, arranged and edited by Alexander Tweedie, M.D., upon fevers, diseases of the skin, &c., from the prolific press of Messrs. Lea and Blanchard, of Philadelphia, has been received. We have only had it long enough to glance at the typographical execution, and admire the general arrangement of the articles which the author has brought together. His reputation is as extensive as the science to which his active powers are devoted; and it is presumed that the medical community will find a rich collection of matter in this production, alike creditable to the intelligence of the man who wrote it, and serviceable to mankind. We shall make an early effort to analyze Dr. Tweedie's *System of Practical Medicine*.

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*Popular System of Anatomy.*—Mr. R. S. Davis, a Boston publisher, has brought out a *fifth* edition of the *Class Book of Anatomy*. Only

about four months ago the fourth edition was printed. The rapid sale, therefore, which made it necessary, so soon, to issue the fifth, certainly shows that the study of this science, in public schools, is considered necessary and even important. And why should it not be so? Who does not like to know something of his own organization? From the extensive circulation of the work, over the United States, there is evidently a growing disposition to teach youth the principles, at least, of the beautiful mechanism of their bodies. The work is just elementary enough to instruct, without being anywhere obscure by reason of the technicalities which characterize the more common anatomical publications. The translation of the Class-book into the language of the Sandwich Islands, by the missionaries, shows that it is appreciated by those benevolent laborers beyond any other system extant.

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*Dr. Prichard on Insanity.*—Another volume, by this well-known writer, is in preparation. In his correspondence with a gentleman of this city, he expresses a strong desire to procure a few genuine Indian skulls, which to him, at this particular juncture, would be of peculiar service. Possibly some of our readers may be in possession of one or more, upon which no great value is placed. If so, and they were left at this office, they would gladly be transmitted by the next steam vessel to Liverpool. Ancient crania, and not those of modern mixed races, are most desirable. In this vicinity there are several old Indian burial fields, from whence such heads are probably procurable.

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*Worms in the Eye.*—As soon as the periodical arrives which a private letter speaks of, from Philadelphia, it is presumed that some more satisfactory explanation of the mode by which living worms get into the interior of an eye, may be obtained. We are looking daily, also, for Dr. Dunglison's paper on this subject, in the doings of the Philosophical Society of Philadelphia. In the meanwhile we are ready to receive the views of naturalists, and hope that some one will furnish us with a hypothesis—indeed, anything that may throw light on this obscure point.

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*Case of Uterine Hæmorrhage in which the Blood escaped through the Fallopian Tubes.* By W. F. BARLOW, Esq.—A young woman, 22 years of age, who had miscarried at the sixth month, with much flooding, had an attack of *purpura hæmorrhagica*, from which she died five days after abortion had taken place. On dissection a quantity of blood was found to have been infused into the abdomen and pelvis, some of which was coagulated; and as clots were found projecting from the fimbriated extremities of the Fallopian tubes, from which it was evident they had been expelled, the author infers that uterine hæmorrhage had taken place through these tubes into the abdomen. The uterus was less than the size it generally assumes a week after delivery, and a conglum of blood partly occupied the neck of the organ.—*London Medical Gazette.*

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*Closure of the Right Side of the Mouth—Operation.*—M. H., aged 22, was admitted, Oct. 22, 1839, into the University College Hospital, under the care of Mr. Liston. About a year ago she was knocked down

in a quarrel, and a man jumped upon her with both his feet, causing an extensive wound of the right side of the mouth and upper lip, and a fracture of the jaw. She went to St. Thomas's Hospital; her jaw was put up tight with bandages, and when it was undone the external wound and right side of the mouth were found united.

23. Mr. Liston removed a triangular piece of skin, forming the cicatrix, from the right side of the mouth, dissecting it off from the mucous membrane of the mouth; this was then divided to the extent of the external wound, and water-dressing was applied until all oozing of blood had ceased. About five hours after the operation the mucous membrane was united to the edges of the skin by three sutures, and being turned out and longer than the external skin, formed at once a prolabium, and prevented the union of the incision.

25. The sutures have been removed and the water-dressing applied.

28. The wound is healing; the mucous membrane of the mouth, which was turned out, has united to the cut edge of the skin, and prevented the internal part of the wound from being again united; the external part of the incision is slightly suppurating.

The patient has been doing well, and was discharged cured some time since.—*London Lancet*.

*Violation of a Child.*—Anne Hall, aged 11 months, was violated by a private soldier, named Andrew Hume. Examined by Mr. Kingsley, surgeon to the Templemore Fever Hospital and Dispensary, two or three days after the commission of the crime; the prisoner was found to have the penis small, and the glans slightly excoriated. "The whole of the external genitals (of the child) were found in a torn state, viz., the perineum very much so, as were also the labia minora, and adjoining mucous membrane of the labia majora and the clitoris; in fact, the whole of the vulva, or genital fissure, presented a large, lacerated wound, in a high state of inflammation; the child was in a state of collapse, and died a few hours after my visit, having survived the injuries inflicted on her, only 30 hours." On a post-mortem examination, the vagina was found "very much dilated, and longer than natural; its extremity was torn from its attachment to the neck of the womb posteriorly, leaving a large torn opening between the uterus and rectum directly into the cavity of the abdomen, where a quantity of bloody serum was effused."—*Dublin Med. Press*.

*Medical Miscellany.*—A gentleman in Unionville, a few days since, voided a portion of a tape-worm *forty-two feet* long. He has passed smaller portions almost every day for 20 years past.—In Queen's County, Long Island, N. Y., there is a perfect albino—an active child, three years of age, whose parents were negroes. The child is perfectly white—has pink-shaded blue eyes, with white hair, crisped like wool.—Dr. Dunard, of Rochester, was arrested a short time ago, in consequence of alleged injuries inflicted by him on a patient, who had been under his care—who, together with her child, died unexpectedly.—A circular of the Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, has been received. Also the circulars of the Medical Institution of Geneva College, in which Dr. Hamilton holds the chair of surgery, and of the Albany Medical College.—Cases of varioloid exist at Ipswich, Mass., but they are of a favorable character.—A



soap-boiler, of St. Rocks, L. C., died lately of a disease called by the French *Charbon*, a species of gangrene contracted by skinning a cow that had died of a malady known by that name. The precise nature of this plague, which is by no means unfrequent amongst the cattle of that province, seems not to be understood.—A case is related in the *Lancet* in which erysipelas was successfully treated by the administration of spirit of turpentine. In the course of five days two ounces of the turpentine were taken.—Ulceration of the tongue, occasioned by a carious tooth, sometimes occurs, and from its long continuance has occasionally been mistaken for cancer. The remedy is of course always near at hand.—Potassa fusa has been successfully given in stricture of the urethra, though it is said, by those who have had much success with it, that it is not an infallible remedy.—A case was mentioned, at a late meeting of the London Medical and Chirurgical Society, in which aneurism of the arteria innominata was cured by repeated venesections and starvation.—Small-pox has again appeared in the interior of the country, exciting alarm, and producing much suffering and death.—Two men, in a trial of strength, in Brittany, by bracing their feet, withstood the strength of a strong horse.—A third edition of Marshall Hall on the nervous system is in press.—A work on habitual constipation, by J. Burne, M.D. is advertised in London.

**TO CORRESPONDENTS.**—Those of our contributors who have been retaining their communications on account of the mass of original matter with which our pages have lately been crowded, will perceive that there is now room for them.—In a late notice of our forth-coming advertising sheet, a part of the impression stated that it would be issued on the 5th of August, instead of the 12th.

Number of deaths in Boston for the week ending Aug. 1, 43.—Males, 23—females, 20. Stillborn, 4. Of consumption, 1—inflammation of the brain, 1—dropsy, 1—inflammation of the bowels, 1—casualty, 1—hooping cough, 3—dysentery, 1—dropsy in the head, 1—bowel complaint, 1—asthma, 1—str, 1—infantile, 4—cholera infantum, 3—lung fever, 1—cancer, 1—marasmus, 1—scarlet fever, 1—abscess, 1—cholera morbus, 1—dropsy in the chest, 1—smallpox, 2—scrofula, 1—jaundice, 1—old age, 3—erysipelas, 1—child-bed, 1—teething, 1—dropsy on the brain, 1.

#### MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers have associated themselves for the purpose of receiving students of medicine.

Students will have access to a good Medical Library, a collection of anatomical preparations and plates, and will have abundant opportunities of seeing practice.

They will also be examined once a week on Theory and Practice of Medicine and Obstetrics, by Dr. WHEATON.

And on Anatomy, Surgery and Materia Medica, by Dr. RIVERS.

A comfortable office for study, with fire and lights, will be provided.

The fee will be \$75 per annum, payable semi-annually in advance.

Providence, July 11, 1840.

A 5—51\*

LEVI WHEATON, M.D.  
H. W. RIVERS, M.D.

#### PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTRUCTION.

THE subscribers continue to receive pupils, and to afford them every facility for obtaining a complete medical education.

Their pupils will have access to the medical and surgical practice of the Massachusetts General Hospital, to the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary, and to the lectures on Anatomy and the operations in Surgery at the Medical College during the winter. They will also have frequent opportunities for attending private surgical operations and the occasional attendance on obstetric cases.

Instruction will be given by examinations and lectures during the intervals of the public lectures at the University. Particular attention will be given to the prosecution of practical anatomy and surgery.

A room is provided with books, fire and lights, at the expense of the instructors.

For admission, apply at the School, No. 4 Winter street, or at No. 2 Park street, between the hours of 12 and 2.

JOHN C. WARREN,  
JOHN B. S. JACKSON,  
ROBERT W. HOOPER,  
J. MASON WARREN.

Boston, July 20, 1840.

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#### A RARE CHANCE FOR A YOUNG PHYSICIAN.

A PHYSICIAN, wishing to leave the State, has some property and an excellent situation to dispose of, on very reasonable terms. For further particulars, inquire of the editor of this Journal; if by letter, post paid.

June 2—eopti

**NEW HAMPSHIRE MED. INSTITUTION AT DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.**

The annual course of Lectures in this Institution will commence on the 6th of August, 1840, and continue three months. The Introductory Lecture will be given on that day at 3 o'clock, P. M.

STEPHEN W. WILLIAMS, M.D., Lecturer on Medical Botany and Medical Jurisprudence.

DIXI CROSBY, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Surgical Anatomy and Obstetrics.

OLIVER P. HUBBARD, M.D., Professor of Chemistry and Pharmacy.

OLIVER W. HOLMES, M.D., Professor of Anatomy and Physiology.

JOSEPH ROBY, M.D., Lecturer on the Theory and Practice of Physic, and Materia Medica.

All operations before the medical class are performed *gratis*. Facilities for private dissection will be afforded if desired.

Fees for the course, \$50. Matriculation, \$3. Graduating expenses, \$18.

By order of the Faculty,  
Jy 15—eptA6

OLIVER P. HUBBARD,  
Secretary.

Hanover, June 22, 1840.

**TREMONT-STREET MEDICAL SCHOOL.**

The annual instructions of the Tremont-street Medical School, for private pupils, will commence on the first day of September, consisting of lectures and examinations in the different branches of professional study—as follows:

A course of Lectures and Examinations on Anatomy, in September and October, by Dr. Reynolds, preparatory to the Winter Lectures at the Medical College.

A course of Lectures on the Principles and Practice of Surgery, including diseases of the Eye and Ear, by Dr. Reynolds. This course consists of one hundred lectures, and is continued nine months of the year during the whole period of pupillage. Stated examinations are made in the above branches—and private examinations, if desired, of the graduating class.

Lectures and Examinations in Physiology and Pathology, with a distinct course upon Auscultation, by Dr. Holmes, who will also deliver, if time permits, a course of Lectures on Surgical Anatomy during the winter.

A course of Lectures on Midwifery and the Diseases of Women, and weekly examinations on the same branches and on Chemistry, by Dr. Storer. The above course is illustrated by practical manipulations with the manikin. Arrangements have been made to provide the pupils with obstetric cases as often as may be necessary to familiarise them with this branch of practice.

The departments of Theory and Practice of Medicine, and Materia Medica, are under the superintendence of Dr. Bigelow—who will visit the Hospital with the pupils, for practical observation of disease, and clinical instruction. The exploration of the chest in diseases of the thoracic organs, is made the subject of particular attention in these visits.

Practical Anatomy has always been a primary object in this school, and ample provision is made for a permanent supply of subjects from November to April. The teachers will avail themselves of occasional opportunities to show the pupils interesting cases in private practice—and operations in Surgery and Ophthalmic Disease. The pupils may attend daily on the practice of the physicians or surgeons of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and the Eye and Ear Infirmary.

Convenient rooms, light and fuel, are provided by the instructors.

JACOB BIGELOW,  
EDWARD REYNOLDS,  
D. HUMPHREYS STORER,  
OLIVER W. HOLMES.

Boston, June 24, 1840.

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**MEDICAL INSTITUTION OF YALE COLLEGE.**

The annual course of Lectures, for the term of 1840-1, will commence on Thursday, October 1, and continue sixteen weeks.

Chemistry and Pharmacy, by	BENJAMIN SILLIMAN, M.D. LL.D.
Theory and Practice of Physic, by	ELI IVER, M.D.
Materia Medica and Therapeutics, by	WILLIAM TULLY, M.D.
Principles and Practice of Surgery, by	JONATHAN KNIGHT, M.D.
Obstetrics, by	TIMOTHY P. BEERS, M.D.
Anatomy and Physiology, by	CHARLES HOOKER, M.D.

Fees for a full course, \$76, to be paid in advance. No dissection fee is required, nor any contingent expenses, except a reasonable charge for subjects, which are abundantly supplied.

Yale College, New Haven, July 17, 1840.

Jy 29—61

CHARLES HOOKER, Sec'y.

**ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE.**

Lectures will commence on Tuesday, Nov. 3d, 1840, and continue sixteen weeks.

Surgery, by	ALDEN MARCH, M.D.
Theory and Practice of Medicine, by	JAMES McNAUGHTON, M.D.
Materia Medica and Natural History, by	EBENEZER EMMONS, M.D.
Anatomy, by	JAMES H. ARNBY, M.D.
Chemistry and Pharmacy, by	LEWIS C. BECK, M.D.
Obstetrics, by	DAVID M. McLACHLAN, M.D.
Institutes of Medicine, by	THOMAS HUN, M.D.
Medical Jurisprudence, by	AMOS DEAN, Esq.

Jy 29—1N

ALDEN MARCH, President.  
J. H. ARNBY, Registrar.

THE BOSTON MEDICAL AND SURGICAL JOURNAL is published every Wednesday, by D. CLAPP, JR., at 184 Washington St., corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, post paid. It is also published in Monthly Parts, with a printed cover. There are two volumes each year. J. V. C. SMITH, M.D., Editor. Price \$3.00 a year in advance, \$3.50 after three months, or \$4.00 if not paid within the year. Two copies to the same address, for \$5.00 a year, in advance. Orders from a distance must be accompanied by payment in advance or satisfactory reference. Postage the same as for a newspaper.

